

sea of solitude." Possibly his statement is capable of explanation. He did not notice the 'Valorous' Expedition, which yielded no inconsiderable results by way of addition to the marine fauna of the arctic seas, and to which the President of the Royal Society had done justice in his annual address eighteen months previously.

XXXII.—*Description of a new Species of Helix.*

By EDGAR A. SMITH, Zoological Department, British Museum.

Helix (Merope?) Barnaclei.

Testa imperforata, conoideo-globosa, levis, tenuiuscula, nitidissima, fulva, nigro-fusco bifasciata; spira conoidea, vix convexa, apice obtusiusculo; anfractus $4\frac{1}{2}$, convexiusculi, sutura distincta alba sejuncti, lineis incrementi arcuatis sculpti, ultimus subventricosus ad aperturam breviter deflexus, ad peripheriam albus obsolete carinatus, infra in medio impressus; apertura obliqua, irregulariter lunato-triangularis; peristoma leviter incrassatum, reflexum, albidum, extus castaneo marginatum, margine columnari recto, calloso albo.

Diam. max. 24 millim., min. 21; alt. 15.

Testa junior ad peripheriam anfr. ultimi acute carinata et fascia lata alba, nigro marginata, cincta, anguste perforata.

Shell imperforate in the adult state (narrowly umbilicated when immature and acutely angled at the periphery), conoidally globose, with a very shining surface, of a rich fulvous or deep fawn-colour; the upper whorls become gradually paler than the last, and towards the apex are semitransparent horn-colour and encircled by a single narrow dark brown line just above the suture, which is white; this line becomes much broader upon the body-whorl, which has a second similar band beneath the more or less white periphery; this is obsoletely keeled or angulated near the upper end of the lip, the keel vanishing altogether on the last half of the whorl; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, a little convex, having no other sculpture than the arcuate lines of growth (except in young shells, where they are obsoletely spirally striated), the last somewhat ventricose, very shortly deflexed at the aperture; beneath paler or horn-colour and a little concave in the middle or umbilical region; the aperture is very oblique, very irregularly triangular-lunate, white within, banded with black and brown (the latter not visible exteriorly); lip not much thickened on the outer and

basal margins, narrowly expanded and reflexed, whitish, and margined on the outside with a chestnut band; the columellar margin white, almost straight, thicker than elsewhere.

Hab. Hawaii, Sandwich Islands.

This very pretty species closely resembles *H. fringilla* of Pfeiffer, which inhabits the Admiralty Islands. Indeed it is so nearly related to it, that were I not certain of the correctness of the locality whence it was obtained, I should have hesitated to describe it as new.

It is, however, a thinner, lighter, and smoother shell, the spire is a trifle higher and less obtuse, the whorls a little more convex, more regular, the penultimate proportionally smaller, and the last larger and not showing that decided constriction behind the lip which is so characteristic of Pfeiffer's species. The lip, too, is thinner and without the least trace of a tooth-like projection on the columellar edge. Specimens of *fringilla* in fine condition exhibit distinct spiral striæ on the entire surfaces; such sculpture is only just traceable in young examples of the present species.

One of these young shells has a particularly beautiful appearance, owing to the broad white band at the periphery, which is margined on both sides by a dark brown stripe, contrasting prettily with the ground-colour, which is bright fulvous or rich fawn.

Three specimens, one adult and two immature, have been presented to the British Museum by Mr. H. Glanville Barnacle, whose name I feel much pleasure in associating with this species, since to him is owing its discovery.

This form of *Helix*, being so different from any other hitherto found at the Sandwich Islands, led me to think that there must be some mistake with regard to the alleged habitat. I therefore wrote to Mr. Barnacle upon the subject, whose reply runs as follows:—"I am perfectly certain that the specimens I have were grown on the Sandwich Islands, and some of them had the snails in them. Whilst stationed at Kailua I used at times to go shooting at some brackish ponds about 8 miles away; and whilst going quietly amongst the broad reeds to shoot a duck I saw one of the shells about halfway up a reed. I took it and found two or three more that day, and now and then others, but not many. Few Europeans go to these ponds, as it is impossible to find them without a guide over the lava, for there is no road. Some I found with the snail, others without; those with the animal I put into a cigar-box and filled it up with sea sand; and so the animals died out, and then I washed them."

This circumstantial account removes all doubt respecting the true home of this shell. Notwithstanding its close affinity to *H. fringilla*, the remoteness of the habitats of the two species and the extreme isolation of the Sandwich Islands are sufficient reasons in themselves to determine the specific distinctness of these snails.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Structure of the Lower Jaw in Rhizodopsis and Rhizodus.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—Though most cordially appreciating the valuable services rendered to science by the researches, into the fossil Vertebrata of the Northumberland Coal-field, of the late distinguished naturalist, Mr. Albany Hancock, in conjunction with Mr. Thomas Atthey, I may nevertheless be permitted to record my entire dissent from the opinions published by them with regard to the so-called “præmaxilla” of *Rhizodopsis*.

Having read Mr. Atthey’s “Notes” in the last number of the ‘Annals,’ all I need say on the matter is that my paper “On the Structure of the Lower Jaw in *Rhizodopsis* and *Rhizodus*” was not written without due and careful examination of the subject, and that since then I have seen no reason to change my opinion.

Edinburgh, August 7, 1877.

I am, yours &c.,

R. H. TRAQUAIR.

Note on the Genus Pœoptera. By Dr. F. BRÜGGEMANN.

From an inspection of several skins of *Pœoptera lugubris* in the British-Museum collection, I have come to the conclusion that this bird is identical with the recently described *Myiopsar cryptopyrrhus* of Cabanis. As the specific name “*lugubris*” was applied to it by a mistake, and thus the species had properly no name of its own until 1876, it will stand as *Pœoptera cryptopyrrha*. The natural affinities of this form (which has been placed amongst the fly-catchers, chats, and glossy starlings by the several authors) appear to me to be with the Dicuridæ.

I have communicated the above identification, together with these remarks, to Mr. R. B. Sharpe, to whom it was new, and who has kindly inserted it in his ‘Catalogue of Birds,’ vol. iii. p. 281.